



Producers of



October 24, 2008

Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner Robert McDowell

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin, Commissioner Copps, Commissioner Adelstein, Commissioner Tate, and Commissioner McDowell:

We at Harpo Studios, the production center for The Oprah Winfrey Show, wanted to express our concerns on the potential loss of the 700 Mhz band.

As you are aware in the Chicago market we are already "blessed" with a very crowded frequency spectrum. Our proximity to the transmit towers on the Sears Tower and the John Hancock Building also make frequency coordination a challenge.

Presently we use the following systems in the UHF spectrum:

40 Channels of Wireless microphones, 18 Channels of Wireless Intercom, 1 Channel of IFB for Crew and 1 Channel for Hearing Impaired/Listening Assistance.

At this point, like most facilities, we regularly struggle with interference between systems, from outside sources, from outside crews, and from the addition of any new RF source in our local area.

The loss of the 700 Mhz range will force us to modify or replace all 18 channels of our Intercom Systems in that band, replace our present Hearing Impaired/Listening Assistance, replace our Crew IFB system, and replace a number of Wireless Microphones.

For our facility every show can be a major event requiring additional rental equipment that often times requires frequency coordination. At present this can be challenging on a day to day basis.

The loss of 108 Mhz of frequency spectrum and the impending introduction of "White Space" devices with unproven spectrum sensing technologies looks to make our jobs that much more difficult.

Additionally, one of our main concerns is safety related to communication between our crew. For example, our automation operator and the floor crew require constant communication to insure safe operation of large set pieces which move on and off stage via remote control. Interference or loss of communication between these personnel could easily injure a person in our crew or our audience.

Obviously this is a huge issue to the many facilities like ours as well as the thousands of independent audio engineers who work in Film, Radio, Television and Sound Reinforcement everyday.

We are sure you will take into consideration the significant time and energy involved in this potential change. As well as the extraordinary expenses that a change of this magnitude could have on companies, individuals, and non-profit organizations which are already facing a difficult economic time.

Your representation of our concerns as professionals is appreciated.

Radi Akel	General Manager of Technical Operations	rakel@harpo.com
Jim Swick	Director of Engineering	jswick@harpo.com
JR Chappell	Audio Director	jchappell@harpo.com
Gerry Formicola	Audio Engineer	gformicola@harpo.com
James Ostrom	Audio Engineer	jostrom@harpo.com
Tim Reisig	Audio Engineer	treisig@harpo.com
James Slanger	Audio Engineer	jslanger@harpo.com